

Appl. No.: 10/521,822
Reply to Office Action of: 07/05/2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The examiner states that "the language, 'on both contact zones' is unclear and undefined in terms of a clear interrelationship of structure. For example it is unclear where the contact zones are defined." To address the examiner's concerns, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, "a coupling antenna comprising a single loop", "the loop including a first and a second contact zone" and "the capacitor being mounted in parallel on the first and the second contact zones of the antenna." In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo et al. (US 6,018,298) in view of Imaichi et al. (US 5,108,822). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo et al. (US 6,018,298) in view of Imaichi et al. (US 5,108,822) and Gallagher et al. (US 6,072,383). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

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Claim 1 has been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, an element of claim 2 has been added to claim 1 to include "a coupling antenna comprising a single loop present on a support". Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "the loop including a first and a second contact zone".

In contrast, Endo discloses a spiral resonance coil 78 which "may be formed into a rectangular, circular or any other shape as long as they are flat and spiral" which includes several loops, terminating in a single contact zone. Imaichi discloses a metal foil pattern (see Fig. 1) having a rectangular spiral shape (with several loops) and terminating in a single contact zone. Neither Endo nor Imaichi teach or suggest an antenna comprising a single loop including a first and a second contact zone and a capacitor mounted in parallel on the first and the second contact zones of the antenna.

Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Endo in view of Imaichi would render a coupling antenna comprising a plurality of loops terminating in a single contact zone printed on a support via gravure printing, as opposed to applicants claimed invention having a single loop with a first and a second contact zone.

The examiner states that "a skilled artisan would have formed the loop as any number of loops including a single turn in a particular resonant tag system". As noted in the patent application at paragraphs [0011]-[0015], in the past, one of ordinary skill in the art would configure an antenna connected to a capacitor via a first contact zone on the loop and a

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second contact zone outside the loop (over an insulating bridge) because a single loop with two contact zones for parallel connection to a capacitor would not be feasible based on the size/cost constraints of the high capacitance capacitor required for a single loop antenna. Therefore, prior to the present invention, it was not obvious to connect a capacitor in parallel with a single loop antenna due to the size and cost associated with a high capacitance capacitor. In the claimed invention, the applicant has discovered that a low thickness capacitor (having a high capacitance value and suitable size/shape at low cost) formed from a gravure printing technique allows for connection to a single loop antenna having two contact zones while achieving a desired frequency based on the law of resonance.

In the present case, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to provide an antenna comprising a single loop connected in parallel to a capacitor, as claimed in amended claim 1, found in either the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The features of amended claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and nonobvious over Endo in view of Imaichi. Claims 2-5 depend directly from independent claim 1, and thus include all the limitations of the independent claim. Therefore, claims 2-5 are allowable at least for the reasons given above for claim 1.

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Claim 11 has been added above to further claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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9/22/06
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